

DPD-4585-61

21 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, DPD

SUBJECT : Hawker Hunter Aircraft

1. Per your verbal request the following information is submitted on Hawker Hunter aircraft.

- a. Aircraft Manufactured by - Hawker Aircraft Limited, England
- b. Production - Built for the Royal Air Force, also built under license in Holland and Belgium and has been exported to Denmark, Iraq, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Peru, Sweden, and Switzerland.
- c. Quantity produced - Nearly 2000 each have been produced up to the spring of 1960.
- d. Different versions produced - Several versions have been produced designated as MK-1 through MK-10, MK-50 through MK-53, MK-56, MK-58, MK-62, and MK-66, 66A and 66B. One photo reconnaissance was produced known as MK-10. Seven training versions (2 seaters) were produced known as MK-7, MK-8, MK-53, MK-62, and MK-66, 66A, and 66B.

2. It is the understanding that you are primarily interested in the MK-9 versions which is a developed version of the MK-6 aircraft. The MK-9 is especially equipped for ground support squadrons. It has slightly higher thrust engine installed, tail drag chute, and is equipped to carry 230 imperial gallons drop tanks in addition to armament and ordinance items.

3. Characteristics of the Hawker Hunter MK-9 single place aircraft is as follows:

- a. Engine - One each Rolls Royce Avon MK-207.

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- b. Fuel Capacity - Four pylons under wings stressed to carry two 350 imperial gallons and/or 230 imperial gallons plus two 100 imperial gallons drop tanks. Internal fuel is 414 imperial gallons, total maximum capacity of this version is 1314 imperial gallons.
- c. Range - With two 230 gallons and two 100 imperial gallons drop tanks plus internal fuel, 414 imperial gallons will allow 1854 miles at 515 M.P.H. at altitudes above 30,000 feet. (NOTE: 1 imperial gallon equals 1,201 U.S. gallons)
- d. Radius of Action - With two 1000 pound bombs and two 100 imperial gallons drop tanks at 39,000 feet equal 350 miles. At 1000 feet equals 219 miles.
- e. Maximum Speed at Sea Level - 715 M.P.H. at 36,000 feet equals 627 M.P.H.
- f. Armament - Aircraft is equipped with four 30 mm. cannons and can carry four 1000 pound bombs and is equipped to carry NAPALM. It can also carry 24 three inch rockets or four two inch rocket pods. The aircraft can be adapted to carry two sidewinder missiles.
- g. Weights - Empty weight equals 13,270 pounds. Maximum gross weight equals 24,000 pounds. Normal take off weight equals 17,000 pounds.
- h. Take off distances - 3,150 feet is required to clear 50 foot obstacles. (NOTE: this distance varies according to altitude, temperature, gross weight, etc.)
- i. Landing Distances - Requires 3750 feet to land over 50 foot obstacles without chute, 3000 feet with drag chute.

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4. Conclusions:

- a. It would appear that this aircraft would be excellent from a deniability stand point due to the wide distribution. The armament and ordnance capability is good, however; as you increase your ordnance you decrease the range or radius of action. This means staging bases would have to be located according to the required mission.
- b. The Materiel Staff does not have maintenance and supply support figures to reflect the reliability of this aircraft. This would be in regard to manhours to produce one flying hour or supply support required to maintain aircraft. It is recommended these two factors be thoroughly checked in addition to the follow-on support prior to any contingency planning on the Hawker Hunter aircraft. Technical observation of this aircraft in the normal atmosphere of a British operational unit would be advantageous and beneficial.

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Deputy for Air Support, DPD


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